

RAM-NICARAGUA-MANUAL;0473

HOUSE PANEL FINDS MANUAL VIOLATED LAW

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WASHINGTON (AP) - THE HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE DECIDED WEDNESDAY THAT THE CIA'S NICARAGUAN REBEL MANUAL BROKE A 1982 LAW BARRING U.S. EFFORTS TO OVERTHROW NICARAGUA'S LEFTIST GOVERNMENT; BUT THAT THE BOOK REVEALED "NEGLIGENCE; NOT INTENT TO VIOLATE THE LAW."

AFTER A 2½-HOUR CLOSED HEARING; THE COMMITTEE ISSUED A STATEMENT DECLARING THAT THE MANUAL "ILLUSTRATES ONCE AGAIN ... THAT THE CIA DID NOT HAVE ADEQUATE COMMAND AND CONTROL OF THE ENTIRE NICARAGUAN COVERT ACTION."

THE COMMITTEE ACCEPTED THE CIA INSPECTOR GENERAL'S CONCLUSION THAT SIX MID- AND JUNIOR-LEVEL CIA OFFICIALS DESERVED DISCIPLINE - SPARING SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM BLAME - BUT NOT THE FINDING THAT NO U.S. LAW WAS VIOLATED.

REP. EDWARD P. BOLAND; D-MASS.; COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN; SAID THAT WHILE CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM J. CASEY "ULTIMATELY; PROBABLY WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE" FOR AGENCY ACTIONS; IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO EXPECT HIM TO KNOW ABOUT ALL ACTIVITIES.

REP. WYCHE FOWLER; D-GA.; A SENIOR COMMITTEE MEMBER; SAID CASEY CONCEDED DURING THE HEARING THAT THE MANUAL'S PRODUCTION HAD SHOWN "NEGLIGENCE" THAT LED TO "EMBARRASSMENT TO THE UNITED STATES AND THIS ADMINISTRATION."

CASEY AVOIDED REPORTERS AS HE LEFT CAPITOL HILL.

THE 90-PAGE; SPANISH-LANGUAGE MANUAL; ENTITLED "PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS IN GUERRILLA WAR;" SUGGESTED "SELECTIVE USE OF VIOLENCE" TO "NEUTRALIZE" NICARAGUAN OFFICIALS; HIRING PROFESSIONAL CRIMINALS; CREATING "MARTYRS" AND COERCING NICARAGUANS INTO CARRYING OUT REBEL ASSIGNMENTS.

BOLAND TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE THAT THE "NEUTRALIZE" LANGUAGE "WOULD SUGGEST ASSASSINATION;" BUT THE COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT "THERE WAS NO INTENTIONAL VIOLATION" OF A 1981 EXECUTIVE ORDER BARRING U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN SUCH POLITICAL MURDERS.

HE ALSO SAID THAT WHILE THE COMMITTEE IS CONTROLLED BY DEMOCRATS; THE CONCLUSIONS REPRESENTED A CONSENSUS; INCLUDING REPUBLICANS.

FIVE MID- AND JUNIOR-LEVEL CIA OFFICIALS WERE DISCIPLINED OVER THE MANUAL - SOME CLAIMING THEY WERE BEING MADE "SCAPEGOATS" TO PROTECT SENIOR OFFICIALS. THE PUBLICATION'S AUTHOR; KNOWN BY THE PSEUDONYM JOHN KIRKPATRICK; WAS ALLOWED TO RESIGN HIS CONTRACT.

ALTHOUGH NOT COMMENTING ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SENIOR OFFICIALS; THE COMMITTEE SAID "THE MANUAL WAS WRITTEN; EDITED; DISTRIBUTED AND USED WITHOUT ADEQUATE SUPERVISION. NO ONE BUT ITS AUTHOR PAID MUCH ATTENTION TO THE MANUAL. MOST CIA OFFICIALS LEARNED ABOUT IT FROM NEWS ACCOUNTS."

THE EXISTENCE OF THE MANUAL WAS REPORTED BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS ON OCT. 14, PROMPTING INVESTIGATIONS BY THE CIA'S INSPECTOR GENERAL, THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT BOARD AND THE HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE.

DESPITE SOME QUESTIONABLE LANGUAGE, THE COMMITTEE ALSO FOUND THAT THE MANUAL'S ORIGINAL PURPOSE WAS "TO PROVIDE TRAINING TO MODERATE (REBEL) BEHAVIOR IN THE FIELD."

BUT IT SAID "THE MANUAL TALKS OF OVERTHROWING THE SANDINISTAS, ... OF 'NEUTRALIZING' SANDINISTA OFFICIALS, ... OF SHOOTING CIVILIANS TRYING TO LEAVE A CAPTURED TOWN, BLACKMAILING OTHERS TO WORK FOR THE CONTRAS (REBELS), AND ENDANGERING INNOCENT PEOPLE BY INCITING VIOLENCE IN MASS DEMONSTRATIONS.

"THESE MATTERS RAISE THE ISSUE OF WHETHER THEY ARE CONSISTENT WITH UNITED STATES POLICY."

AP-NY-12-05-84 1831EST